

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/RPE:JRTARRANT:LW

APPROVED BY C - HSONNENFELDT

EUR/RPE - EHPREEG

EB - JKATZ (SUBS)

S/S - PSHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 085231

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: CONSUMER/PRODUCER PREPCON: ROLE OF FRENCH
CHAIRMAN

FOR USDEL TO PREPCON

ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR RUSH

1. IN ABSENCE OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR, MINISTER DE LA GORCE
WAS CALLED IN BY COUNSELOR TO RECEIVE SECRETARY'S EXPRES-
SION OF CONCERN ABOUT ROLE OF FRENCH CHAIRMAN DE GUIRINGAUD
AT PREPCON.

2. SONNENFELDT MADE CLEAR THAT WE WENT TO PREPCON
ON ASSUMPTION OF CONSUMER SOLIDARITY AS AGREED TO BETWEEN
PRESIDENTS GISCARD AND FORD AT MARTINIQUE. WE ACCEPTED
FRENCH CHAIR ON BASIS THAT FRENCH ROLE WOULD BE STRICTLY
LIMITED TO TECHNICAL ONE. DE GUIRINGAUD HAS GONE BEYOND
THIS -- HE HAS TAKEN AN "ACTIVE AND INDEPENDENT" ROLE THAT
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DOES NOT REFLECT THE MARTINIQUE AGREEMENT. PARTICULAR

INSTANCE IS CHAIRMAN'S CIRCULATION OF DRAFT PREPCON COMMUNIQUE CALLING FOR OECD PARTICIPATION AT CONFERENCE WITH NO REFERENCE TO IEA. AS US AND IEA HAVE STATED REPEATEDLY, THIS SCENARIO IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. OUR POSITION IS FIRM AND

THAT WILL BE OUR DELEGATION'S POSITION IN PARIS.

3. SONNENFELDT ALSO NOTED OUR CONCERN OVER DE GUIRINGAUD'S BEGINNING TO MEET INDIVIDUALLY AND BILATERALLY WITH VARIOUS CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS FOR PURPOSES OF NEGOTIATING SUBSTANTIVE POINTS, ESPECIALLY REGARDING AGENDA FOR EVENTUAL CONFERENCE. AGAIN, IT WAS STRESSED THAT THIS BEHAVIOR DOES NOT FIT OUR UNDERSTANDING OF CONSUMER SOLIDARITY ON WHICH WE AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN PREPCON. WE DID NOT WISH TO SEE CHAIRMAN PLACE HIMSELF BETWEEN CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS AS A NEGOTIATOR.

4. ON MATTER OF AGENDA, SONNENFELDT NOTED THAT IF OUTCOME IS A DILUTED AGENDA THAT COMPLETELY CHANGES THE ENERGY CHARACTER OF CONFERENCE, IT WOULD NOT BE A CONFERENCE WE ARE LIKELY TO BE INTERESTED IN OR AT WHICH WE COULD BE A PARTICIPANT.

5. DE LA GORCE WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, BUT SAID HE WOULD BRING SECRETARY'S VIEWS TO FOREIGN MINISTER'S ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY.

6. DE LA GORCE LATER CALLED BACK TO SAY THAT ON REFLECTION HE SHOULD HAVE RESPONDED MORE CLEARLY THAT AS TECHNICAL CHAIRMAN THE FRENCHMAN WAS NOT SPEAKING FOR FRANCE, WHICH IS REPRESENTED BY THE EC; CONSEQUENTLY THERE CAN BE NO VIOLATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF CONSUMER SOLIDARITY. SONNENFELDT SAID THAT WAS A SUBTLETY THAT ESCAPED HIM AND IN ANY CASE AS "TECHNICAL CHAIRMAN" HE DID NOT THINK IT WAS PROPER FOR THE FRENCHMAN TO ENGAGE IN SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS. KISSINGER

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